Use of mobile phones

†3022. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic telephone tariff is higher than that of mobile phones;

(b) if so, the percentage thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of the people using mobile services; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) It is extremely difficult to compare domestic telephone tariffs for basic and mobile phones because of the large number of tariff packages offered by operators. Moreover, there is no uniform rate of domestic tariff either in basic or in cellular service. The call charges vary among different operators and also would depend upon Alternative Tariff Packages chosen by a particular subscriber, depending upon his usage pattern.

(c) and (d) The percentage of people using cellular mobile services (as on 30.06.2003) is around 1.5%. This is based on the performance monitoring report submitted by all cellular mobile service providers to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for the quarter ending on 30.6.2003. The company-wise details of the cellular subscribers are given in the Statement.

Statement

Subscribers base position of different companies in cellular services

SI.No.	Cellular Group	No. of Subscribers as on 30.6.2003
1.	Bharti Group	37,50,989
2.	BSNL	31,78,891
3.	Hutchinson Group	26,19,027
4.	Idea Group	14.63,259
5.	BPL	11,67,442
6.	Spice Comm	7,09,952

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

SI.No.	Cellular Group	No. of Subscribers as on 30.6.2003
7.	Escotel	5,99,742
8.	Reliance Group	5,75,591
9.	MTNL	2,90,841
10.	Others-Aircel	2,50.847
11.	Aircel Digilink	1,94,016
12.	Hexacom	1,54,649
13.	RPG	1.79,639
		1,51,34,885

BSNL's free run in GSM and WLL

3023. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been given a free run in the GSM and WLL space and has been allowed to offer services like free national roaming to its customers;

(b) if so, the reasons for cash bail out package being considered by Government for BSNL;

(c) whether this package would allow BSNL to alter its cost structures by writing off both historical and present operational costs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. Tariffs of BSNL as for other telecom operators are subject to reporting requirements as per the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India—TRAI's Telecom Tariff Order 1999, as amended from time to time. Cellular subscribers of BSNL can avail National Roaming facility only upon payment of additional amount. As regards WLL (Mobile), BSNL does not provide roaming outside the concerned Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA), in accordance with the licencing conditions.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.